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R 111000Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8572
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 SAIGON 11840

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT SEPT 4-10,1974.

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I--SUMMARY.

1. COUNTRY-WIDE, THE MILITARY SITUATION IN VIET-NAM WAS QUIETER THIS WEEK THAN AT ANY TIME FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DROPPED BY OVER 20 PER CENT AND THE CHARACTER OF FIGHTING WAS ESSENTIALLY SMALL-SCALE, RATHER THAN LARGE-UNIT CLASHES. IN MR-1, THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DROPPED OFF, AS DID THE KIA TOTAL. THUA THIEN AGAIN WAS THE FOCUS OF ACTIVITY, AS COMMUNIST-INITIATED ACTIVITY THERE INCREASED. FOLLOWING UP GAINS MADE LAST WEEK, COMMUNIST FORCES OVERRAN POSITIONS OF THE FIRST BATTALION, THIRD REGIMENT, AND BEGAN INFILTRATING ELEMENTS TOWARD TRUOI BRIDGE ON QL 1. GVN FORCES REINFORCING THE BRIDGE HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS IN RECLAIMING LOST GROUND. THE DA NANG-HUE RAILROAD REMAINS CLOSED. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO DIMINISH. AIRBORNE TROOPS MOVING TOWARD CAPTURED THUONG DUC TOWN CLASHED SEVERAL TIMES WITH COMMUNIST FORCES, KILLING 67 AND LOSING 19 KILLED IN ONE SUCH ENCOUNTER. DA NANG AIRBASE RECEIVED 12 HEAVY CALIBER ROCKETS, WITH ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES INCURRED. THE DECLINED OF ACTIVITY IN MR-2 CONTINUED THIS WEEK, AND CASUALTIES DROPPED ACCORDINGLY. THE GVN EFFORT TO EXPAND WESTWARD IN BINH DINH CONTINUES, THOUGH STIFF NVA/VC RESISTANCE IS MAKING PROGRESS MOVE AND MORE DIFFICULT. BOTH QL 1 AND QL 19 HAVE BEEN OPEN AND SECURE IN THE PROVINCE THIS WEEK. ARVN HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF A LULL IN PLEIKU TO RESUPPLY AND REINFORCE CAMP PLEI ME AND FSB 711. KONTUM EXPERIENCED A SECOND UNUSUALLY CALM WEEK. IN PHU YEN COMMUNIST INCIDENTS WERE DESIGNED TO DRAW GVN FORCES AWAY FROM RICE AREAS, ALLOWING THE COMMUNISTS FREER ACTION THERE. THE NUMBER OF MININGS AND ABDUCTIONS ROSE IN BINH THUAN. IN MR-3 THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER, A FACT REFLECTED IN CASUALTY FIGURES FOR THE WEEK. ARVN REGAINED LOST POSITIONS IN CONG THANH DISTRICT, BIEN HOA, BY PUSHING NVA FORCES OUT OF THAI HUNG VILLAGE AND BA
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CAM OUTPOST, INFLICTING HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE NVA IN THE PROCESS. THE SITUATION IN TAY NINH REMAINED UNCHANGED AND COMMUNIST EFFORTS AGAINST A PHU KHUONG DISTRICT OUTPOST WERE FURITLESS. GVN FORCES INCHING TOWARD OP 82 IN BINH DUONG WERE FORCED BACK BY AN NVA COUNTER ATTACK, BUT LATE REPORTS INDICATE ARVN HAS RETAKEN SOME OF THE LOST GROUND THE OVER-ALL LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR -4 REACHED A YEARLY LOW, AND CASUALTIES WERE CONSIDERABLY LOWER. THE ONLY AREA TO EXPERIENCE CONCENTRATED

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NVA/VC PRESSURE WAS KIEN VAN DISTRICT KIN KIEN PHONG. DESPITE REPEATED SHELLING, HARASSMENT, AND ATTACKS, ALL OBS THERE HELD, THOUGH MANY GVN TROOPS WERE WOUNDED. MINING AND TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN DINH TUONG RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, ALL CIVILIANS. TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN KIEN HOA AND PHONG DINH AND ABFS IN VINH BINH, SA DEC, AND KIEN HOA COMPRISED THE MAJORITY OF ACTION IN THE CENTRAL DELTA. THERE WERE NO MAJOR INCIDENTS IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA AND THE SITUATION THERE REMAINS UNCHANGED. PA AND E INFORMED THE ICCS ON SEPT 6 THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO TERMINATE SERVICES SINCE THE ICCS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PAY ITS BILLS. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS THEREUPON AGAIN RAISED THE PROSPECT OF EVACUATION OF FIELD TEAM SITES.

PART II--ICCS

2. PA AND E, ONE OF THE MAIN CONTRACTORS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO THE ICCS, ON SEPT 6 INFORMED THE COMMISSION THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO TERMINATE SERVICES SINCE THE ICCS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PAY ITS BILLS. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS THEREUPON AGAIN RAISED THE PROSPECT OF EVACUATION OF FIELD TEAM SITES. INDONESIAN AMB DHARSONO CONCLUDED HIS TOUR IN VIET-NAM SEPT 11 AND WAS REPLACED BY AMB SAMIL. THE IRANIANS DESIGNATED THEIR DCM, MEHDI KHAZENI-MOGHADDAM, AS TEMPORARY ACTING DIRECTOR GENRAL OF THE ICCS AS OF SEPT 7.

PART III-FPJMT, TPJMC, AND RELATED MATTERS.

3. THE DRV AND "PRG" CONTINUED THEIR BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC PLENARY SESSIONS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD CONSECUTIVE SESSION.

PART IV--COMMUNIST MEDIA COMMENT.

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NOTHING TO REPORT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 SAIGON 11840

PART V--MR-1.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HEADQUARTERS REPORTS 288 COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

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THIS PAST WEEK, A MODERATE DECREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD. THE MAJOR COMMUNIST-INITIATED MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAIN OCCURRED IN PHU LOC DISTRICT, THUA THIEN PROVINCE. ACTIVITY IN QUANG NAM AND QUANG NGAI PROVINCES DECREASED AGAIN, ALTHOUGH DANANG AIRBASE WAS ROCKETED SEPTEMBER 10, WITH ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES REPORTED. GVN CASUALTIES: 138 KIA; 58 MIA; 642 WIA (COMMENT: AS IN PREVIOUS WEEKS GVN MIA FIGURES DO NOT REFLECT LARGE NUMBERS OF SOLDIERS UNACCOUNTED FOR FOLLOWING CLASHES WITH THE COMMUNISTS. END COMMENT) COMMUNIST CASUALTIES: 341 KIA; 4 DETAINEES; 1 RALLIER. VNAF FLEW 152 COMBAT AIR SORTIES DURING THE WEEK.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

QUANG TRI REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION BEING A GROUND ATTACK IN WHICH SEVEN POSITIONS OF AN RF BATTALION WERE TEMPORARILY OVERRUN IN WESTERN HAI LANG DISTRICT, WITH LIGHT CASUALTIES REPORTED. SOUTHEAST OF QUANG TRI CITY, MARINE POSITIONS RECEIVED TWO MODERATE ROCKET ABF'S. COMMUNISTS ALSO FIRED B-40'S INTO A COMBINED MARINE AND RF PATROL.

3. IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE, THE LEVEL OF COMMUNIST-INITIATED ACTIVITY INCREASED. PHU LOC DISTRICT, SOUTHEAST OF HUE, WAS AGAIN THE LOCATION OF THE REGION'S MOST DRAMATIC FIGHTING. FOLLOWING UP THE DISPERSAL OF THE 3RD BATTALION OF THE 51ST REGIMENT (1ST ARVN DIVISION) ON SEPTEMBER 3, COMMUNIST FORCES DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS EXERTED PRESSURE AGAINST NEARBY POSITIONS OF THE 1ST BATTALION/3RD REGIMENT (ALSO 1ST ARVN DIVISION) AND 37TH RANGER BATTALION. SEVERAL SMALL DEFENSIVE POSITIONS WERE LOST. ON SEPTEMBER 7, COMMUNISTS OVERRAN THE POSITIONS OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 3RD REGIMENT (AT THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD 296 MEMBERS OF THIS BATTALION WERE STILL REPORTED MISSING) AND APPARENTLY INFILTRATED COMPANY TO BATTALION SIZE ELEMENTS
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TOWARD TRUOI BRIDGE ON Q.L. 1. RESERVES, INCLUDING THE 3RD BATTALION OF THE 1ST REGIMENT, TWO COMPANIES OF AN AIRBORNE BATTALION AND AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER SQUADRON REINFORCED THE PF PLATOONS HOLDING THE BRIDGE AND PUSHED BACK INTO SOME OF THE TERRITORY INFILTRATED BY THE COMMUNISTS. COMMUNIST CASUALTIES IN THIS SERIES OF OPERATIONS WERE LIGHT. ELSEWHERE IN THUA THIEN, COMMUNIST FORCES SHELLED THE PHU BAI POL DUMP, CAUSING ONLY MINIMAL LOSSES. MARINE AND RANGER POSITIONS WEST OF HUE WERE ALSO SHELLED. THE RAILROAD, STILL OUT OF COMMISSION FROM PREVIOUS ATTACKS, WAS MINED TWICE.

4. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

ACTIVITY IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE DECREASED FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK. COMMUNIST ABF'S CONTINUED AGAINST ARVN EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE

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POSITIONS. AIRBORNE TROOPS MOVING TOWARD THUONG DUC HAD SEVERAL SHARP CLASHES, IN ONE KILLING 67 COMMUNISTS AND CAPTURING SEVERAL CREW-SERVED WEAPONS WHILE SUFFERING 19 KIA AND 29 WIA. IN QUE SON (AND TO THE SOUTH ALONG THE QUANG TIN BORDER) ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH REGIMENT/2ND DIVISION RECAPTURED SEVERAL PIECES OF HIGH GROUND OVERLOOKING ROUTE 535 AND INFLICTED MODERATE CASUALTIES ON COMMUNIST DEFENDERS. IN THE EARLY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 10, COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRED TWO BARRAGES TOTALLING TWELVE HEAVY CALIBER ROCKETS AT DANANG AIR BASE, CAUSING LIGHT CASUALTIES. DUC DUC DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS WAS ALSO ROCKETED TWICE WITH NO CASUALTIES. AT THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD THE 54TH REGIMENT OF THE 1ST ARVN DIVISION WAS BEING WITHDRAWN FROM FRONT-LINE POSITIONS AND BEING RETURNED TO ITS FORMER AREA OF OPERATIONS IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE.

5. QUANG TIN REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET WITH SEVERAL SMALL ABF'S, PATROL-SIZED CONTACTS, AND MINE-CAUSED CASUALTIES REPORTED. IN QUANG NGAI, ENEMY ACTIVITY AGAIN DECREASED. DUC PHO AND BINH SON SUBSECTORS WERE SHELLED. COMMUNIST FORCES LAUNCHED SMALL GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST RF POSITIONS IN EASTERN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS. ELEMENTS OF THE ARVN 5TH REGIMENT, OPERATING IN SOUTHERN NGHIA HANH, ATTEMPTED, IN SOME INSTANCES SUCCESSFULLY, TO RETAKE SEVERAL POSITIONS LOST TO THE COMMUNISTS IN RECENT WEEKS. TU THUAN VILLAGE OFFICE, 1/2 KILOMETER WEST OF QUANG NGAI AIRPORT, WAS MORTARED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE WEEK.

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6. ICCS: NO INVESTIGATIONS OR OBSERVATIONS WERE REPORTED IN EITHER ICCS REGION I OR REGION II DURING THE WEEK.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8574
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
ZENAMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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PART VI--MR-2.

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-II AGAIN DECLINED THIS WEEK AMID GROWING INTELLIGENCE INDICATIONS THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE CLOSE TO LAUNCHING A NEW ROUND OF OFFENSIVE ACTIONS IN BINH DINH, AND, PERHAPS, IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU. THERE WAS LITTLE CHANGE IN BATTLEFIELD POSITIONS IN BINH DINH. CAMP PLEI ME WAS QUIET IN PLEIKU, ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNISTS WERE MORE ACTIVE WEST OF PLEIKU CITY IN THE AREA OF THE 22ND AND 23RD RANGER GROUPS. TOTAL INCIDENTS IN MR-II WERE 69, DOWN FROM 101, WITH

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2/3 IN THE COASTAL ZONE AND 1/3 IN THE HIGHLANDS. THE MOST ACTIVE
PROVINCE (BINH DINH) RECORDED 39 INCIDENTS. RVNAF CASUALTY
FIGURES WERE MARKEDLY LIGHTER, WITH 52 KIA, 163 WIA AND 18MIA.
A WEEK AGO THESE FIGURES WERE 88, 316 AND 156. COMMUNIST LOSSES
WERE ALSO DOWN, SHOWING 242 KIA AND 1 CIA, COMPARED WITH 328
KIA AND 4 CIA. AS A RESULT OF THE RECENTLY IMPOSED LIMITATIONS, ALL
AIR ACTIVITY WAS SHARPLY LOWER WITH TAC AIR MISSIONS DOWN
33 PERCENT TO 162, AND VR MISSIONS DOWN 55 PERCENT TO 126.
THE BIG DROP, HOWEVER, WAS IN HELICOPTER MISSIONS, DOWN ABOUT
2/3 TO 1094 MISSIONS. CORPS CHIEF OF STAFF, BGEN CAM, SAYS
MR-II PLANS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL HELICOPTER AUTHORIZATION FROM
THE JGS, SINCE THE ALLOCATED HOURS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT.

2. BINH DINH: THE TURN DOWN IN ACTIVITY CONTINUED THIS WEEK,
BUT BINH DINH WAS STILL THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE IN MR-II.
THE GVN IS PURSUING ITS PLAN TO EXTEND ITS POSITIONS WEST AND
EAST OF QL-1 IN THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE PROVINCE, BUT
PROGRESS IS COMING MORE AND MORE SLOWLY. THE ARVN 42REGT'S DRIVE
WESTWARD IN PHU MY DISTRICT HAS BOGGED DOWN IN THE FACE OF HEAVY
INDIRECT FIRE FROM THE NVA 12TH REGT HOLDING THE HIGH GROUND
OVERLOOKING THE TACTICAL APPROACHES TO HIGHWAY 506 (BR-870750).
AT THE SAME TIME, THE ARVN 47TH REGT OF THE 22ND DIV HAS MADE
SCANT PROGRESS TO THE WEST OF HOAI NHON DISTRICT. THE NVA 2ND
REGT IS RETRAINING IN WESTERN HOAI AN DISTRICT, LEAVING THE
NVA 12TH REGT TO PROTECT THE PHU MY DISTRICT APPROACH TO HOAI
AN AND THE NVA 141ST REGT TO PROTECT THE HOAI NHON DISTRICT
APPROACH TO HOAI AN. A MEMBER OF THE 2ND REGT WHO RALLIED
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SEPTEMBER 4 HAS STATED THAT THE REGT LOST OVER 600MEN IN THE
NHONG PASS FIGHTING IN AUGUST. LRRP TEAMS REPORT TRUCK TRAFFIC
OF 10 TO 15 VEHICLES PER NIGHT TRAVELING SOUTH FROM HHE AN LJO
VALLEY TO CESKPPLY AND PCOVIJEHREPLACEMENTS FOR THE THREE NVA REGTS.
SPECIAL ACTION TEAMS OF THE ARVN 22ND DIV ARE MINING THE NVA
SUPPLY ROUTE TO INTERDICT COMMUNIST LOGISTIC SUPPORT. IN ADDITION
THE ARVN 47TH REGT IS TRYING TO DRIVE WEST TO CUT THE ROUTE AS
IT LEADS TO THE NVA STRONGHOLD IN WESTERN HOAI AN DISTRICT.
THE 277TH RF BN HAS CLEARED CAT NHON AND CAT THANG VILLAGES IN
SOUTHEASTERN PHU CAT DISTRICT AND HAS MOVED TO HOAI NHON DISTRICT.
THE VC BNS THAT ATTACKED CAT NHON AND CAT THANG, HAVE JOINED
A THIRD VC BN (BR 940610) TO DEFEND CAT TAI AND CAT MINH VILLAGES
AGAINST THE 44TH RANGER BN AND THE 233RD RF BN. THE 44TH HAS
TAKEN THE HIGH GROUND OVERLOOKING CAT TAI AND SECTOR EXPECTS A
QUICK REVERSAL IN THE TWO VILLAGES. BOTH QL-1 AND QL-19
HAVE BEEN OPEN AND SECURE THIS WEEK. A FEW SORTIES WHICH HAVE
NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY REPORTED HAVE BEEN FLOWN IN SPITE OF THE
REPORTED AIR STRIKE FREEZE.

3. PLEIKU: ACTIVITY WAS DOWN APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD COMPARED TO
LAST WEE. MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS THE REDUCED ACTIVITY IN THE AREA

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OF CAMP PLEI ME. ROUTE TL6C TO FIRE SUPPORT BASE 711 AND
PLEI ME IS OPEN, REINFORCEMENTS AND SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN MOVED IN
AND CASUALTIES EVACUATED. ALL POSITIONS AROUND PLEI ME HAVE BEEN
REOCCUPIED AND RVNAF TROOPS ARE MOVING OUT TO ENLARGE THE
PERIMETER DEFENSE. SECTOR REPORTS THAT THE ARVN 24TH RANGER
GROUP WILL BE BROUGHT OUT OF PLEI ME THIS WEEK. THERE HAS BEEN
AN INCREASE IN COMMUNIST ACTIVITY (MOSTLY SHELLINGS) WEST OF
PLEIKU (ZA 103447) IN THE VICINITY OF THE ARVN 22ND AND
23RD RANGERS.

4. KONTUM: FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN A ROW THERE WAS VERY LITTLE
ACTIVITY IN THIS PROVINCE. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL MINOR
INCIDENTS IN THE AREA NORTH OF CHUONG NGHIA IN THE NATURE OF
PROBES, WHICH REINFORCES SECTOR'S VIEW THAT CHUONG NGHIA WILL
BE THE NEXT FOCUS OF COMMUNIST ATTACK.

5. PHU YEN: MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINED ALMOST 50 PERCENT
THIS WEEK. THE COMMUNISTS ARE CONTINUING THEIR PRESSURE AGAINST
NON-RICE PRODUCING AREAS SO THAT THE GVN WILL DRAW FORCES AWAY
FROM RICE PROTECTION AND GIVE THE VC FREER ACCESS TO THE CROP.
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IN THE FACE OF COMMUNIST PRESSURE IN DONG XUAN DISTRICT THE GVN
HAS PULLED FORCES OUT OF THE TUY HOA-HIEN XUONG VALLEY RICE AREA
TO PROVIDE GREATER PROTECTION FOR THE NORTHERN PART OF THE
PROVINCE. ALTHOUGH THE PRINCIPAL LOCS REMAIN OPEN, TRAVEL IS
STILL JUDGED TO BE REASONABLY INSECURE.

6. BINH THUAN: THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS UP MARKEDLY BUT THEY
REMAINED RELATIVELY MINOR IN NATURE AND DID NOT OTERIALLY
AFFECT THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION OF THE PROVINCE.
MININGS AND ABDUCTIONS ACCOUNTED FOR MOST OF THE INCREASE,
WITH THE NUMBER OF CONTACTS REMAINING LOW.

7. QUANG DUC; MILITARY INCIDENTS CONTINUED TO BE FEW AND MINOR.
MORE SIGNIFICANT WAS THE ESCAPE SEPTEMBER 7 OF THREE FAMILIES
TOTALLING 14 PEOPLE FROM THE VC-CONTROLLED AREA OF KIEN DUC
DISTRICT. A VC PRODUCTION CENTER AND PRISON WITH APPROXIMATELY
3,000 PEOPLE, OF WHOM ABOUT HALF ARE MONTAGNARDS, IS REPORTED
TO BE LOCATED NEAR THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE BORDER IN THE VICINITY
OF BU YOH TUNG VILLAGE (YU 565355).

8. ICCS: THE PA AND E MANAGERS IN PLEIKU AND NHA TRANG HAVE
RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO CLOSE DOWN OPERATIONS BY THE END
OF SEPTEMBER UNLESS ARREARAGES OWED BY THE ICCS TO PA AND E FOR
SUPPORT ACTIVITIES ARE PAID BY THAT TIME. AN ICCS DELEGATION
WAS INVITED BY QUANG DUC SECTOR SEPTEMBER 3 TO WITNESS THE
DESTRUCTION OF SOME 15,000 TONS OF OLD ARVN AMMUNITION OF
VARIOUS CALIBER. ONLY THE INDONESIANS ACCEPTED. IN BINH
THUAN PROVINCE, THE ARVN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TPJMC REQUESTED

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THE ICCS TO INVESTIGATE THE SEPTEMBER 5 SHELLING OF PHAN THIET. THREE INDONESIAN AND TWO IRANIAN ICCS MEMBERS CONDUCTED INDEPENDENT OBSERVATIONS; AT THE SAME TIME TWO SENIOR POLISH OFFICERS, THEIR INTERPRETERS AND DRIVER, HAD A PICNIC AT A NEARBY BEACH

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CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
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PART VII--MR-3.

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK WAS AT A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER LEVEL WITH MAJOR ACTION CENTERING ON THE GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN TO PUSH THE NVA/VC OUT OF THAI HUNG VILLAGE ON THE DONG NAI RIVER IN NORTHERN BIEN HOA PROVINCE. AT WEEK'S END, THE COMMUNISTS ALSO REACTED SHARPLY TO ADVANCES BY 5TH ARVN DIV UNITS TO THE EDGE OF OUTPOST 82 WEST OF BEN CAT FORCING THEM TO FALL BACK SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS. THE CURRENT PAUSE IN OTHER AREAS MAY BE DUE TO HEAVY CASUALTIES TAKEN BY THE NVA/VC IN EACH OF MR-3'S THREE MAIN BATTLE AREAS IN RECENT WEEKS AS WELL AS REGROUPING AND RESUPPLY OPERATIONS BY THE MAIN FORCE NVA UNITS IN PREPARATION FOR FUTURE ACTION. REDUCED JGS ALLOCATIONS OF FIGHTER AND HELICOPTER MISSIONS EFFECTIVE SEPT 1 HAS HAD A SOBERING EFFECT ON GVN FORCES WITH SOME ADVERSE EFFECT ON MORALE. THE OUTLOOK FOR MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE COMING WEEK IS FOR SUSTAINED PRESSURE BUT NO MAJOR DRIVE BY THE COMMUNISTS EXCEPT POSSIBLY A COUNTER-ATTACK BY THE 209TH NVA REGT AT THAI HUNG.

2. THE LEVEL OF MILITARY INCIDENTS IN MR-3 CONTINUED TO DECLINE, FALLING FROM 302 LAST WEEK TO 213 FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD. BINH DUONG HAD THE GREATEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WITH 73 (92 LAST WEEK), FOLLOWED BY TAY NINH WITH 50. BIEN HOA REPORTED 43 INCIDENTS AND HAU NGHIA 14. MR-3 HQS RECORDED 38 GROUND ATTACKS (58 THE PREVIOUS PERIOD), 124 ABF'S (187 LAST WEEK), AND 8 COMBINED GROUND AND ABF'S. THERE WERE 22 MINING INCIDENTS AND 13 INCIDENTS OF SMALL ARMS HARASSMENT.

3. NVA/VC ARTILLERY AND MORTAR DECREASED TO 1,627 FROM LAST WEEK'S 2,221. RESPONDING BOTH TO RECENT JGS CONSERVATION DIRECTIVES AND REDUCED OPERATIONAL NEEDS, RVNAF FIRED ONLY 17,170 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY COMPARED WITH 45,170 ROUNDS LAST WEEK. VNAF FLEW A TOTAL OF 128 FIXED-WING SORTIES THIS WEEK (ALL FLOWN BY A-37'S). THIS WAS A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION FROM LAST WEEK'S 277 REFLECTING THE JGS CUTS EFFECTIVE SEPT 1. NO F-5 OR A-1 AIRCRAFT FLEW OPERATIONAL SUPPORT MISSIONS DURING THIS WEEK. THERE WERE 70 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP SORTIES COMPARED TO 309 IN THE PREVIOUS PERIOD. VNAF MISSIONS WERE CONCENTRATED IN WESTERN TAY NINH, NORTHERN
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BIEN HOA AND CENTRAL LONG KHANH PROVINCE.

4. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 52 KIA, 262 WIA, AND 2 MIA WHILE NVA/VC LOSSES WERE SET AT 226 KIA, 5 CIA, AND 6 RALLIERS. TWO RVNAF ESCAPED COMMUNIST CAPTIVITY AND RETURNED TO FRIENDLY HANDS IN TAY NINH DURING THIS PERIOD.

5. IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE ARVN FORCES RE-GAINED LOST POSITIONS IN CONG THANH DISTRICT AS THE 43RD REGT (18TH DIV) SUPPORTED BY THE 92ND RANGER GROUP AND PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL FORCES PUSHED NVA FORCES OUT OF THAI HUNG VILLAGE AND THE BA CAM OUTPOST ON SEPTEMBER 7 AFTER A WEEK'S CAMPAIGN. THE 43RD SUSTAINED LIGHT LOSSES WHILE APPARENTLY ELIMINATING MOST OF ONE BATTALION OF THE 209TH AND INFLICTING HEAVY CASUALTIES ON ANOTHER. THE OPERATION CONTINUES IN THE AREA NORTH OF BA CAM AND THAI HUNG IN AN EFFORT TO INFLICT FURTHER CASUALTIES AND BLOCK COUNTER-ATTACK WHICH IS EXPECTED FROM THE 209TH. THE BIEN HOA AIRBASE AND SURROUNDING CITY ENJOYED ANGGTHER WEEK FREE FROM ROCKET ATTACKS.

6. TAY NINH PROVINCE CONTINUED TO REPORT NVA/VC ACTIVITY IN THE FORM OF ABF'S, LIMITED GROUND ATTACKS, AND HAMLET PENETRATIONS. THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNIST PRESSURE WAS AGAINST CAU KHOI OUTPOST 12 KMS SE OF PHU KHUONG DISTRICT WHICH WITHSTOOD BOTH ABF'S AND ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. THE PROVINCE CHIEF INFORMED CONGEN OFFICER SEPT 9 THAT ONE BATTALION OF THE 205TH NVA REGT AND THE D-200 INDEPENDENT NVA BATTALION, WHICH HAD RECENTLY AUGMENTED COMMUNIST FORCES IN MR-3, HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE FIGHTING IN THE CAU KHOI AREA. ON SEPTEMBER 6 COMMUNIST FORCES BELIEVED TO BE ELEMENTS OF THE E-6 REGT INITIATED TWO GROUND ASSAULTS AGAINST A BN OF THE 25TH ARVN DIV 5 KMS SW OF PHUOC NINH WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

7. IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE NVA ACTIVITY CONTINUED ALONG INTER-PROVINCIAL ROUTE 7 IN THE VICINITY OF OUTPOST 82 AND RACH BAP. ON SEPTEMBER 8 ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH ARVN DIV WHICH HAD INCHED THEIR WAY UP TO THE 82ND OUTPOST PERIMETER WERE FORCED BACK BY A SUDDEN COUNTER-ATTACK BY UNITS OF THE 141ST NVA REGT SUPPORTED BY ARMOR, RESULTING IN ARVN CASUALTIES OF 7 KIA, 67 WIA, AND 39 MISSING. BY THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD, ARVN HAD RECO-VERED SOME OF THE GROUND LOST CLOSE TO OUTPOST 82 AND THE SITUA-TION FOR THE MOMENT WAS STABILIZED. ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTHERN PART

OF THE IRON TRIANGLE WAS LIMITED TO SPORADIC SMALL ARMS HARASSMENT AND ABF'S AGAINST RVNAF FORCES IN AND AROUND PHU THU OUTPOST.

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8. IN HAU NGHIA NVA/VC DIRECTED ATTACKS AGAINST OUTPOSTS IN NORTH-EASTERN TRANG BANG AND CU CHI DISTRICTS. ON SEPTEMBER 8 A BN OF THE 25TH ARVN DIV MADE CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST FORCES BELIEVED TO BE PART OF THE 101ST NVA INDEPENDENT REGT NORTHEAST OF TRANG BANG RESULTING IN 14 NVA/VC KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED. ON THE SAME DAY COMMUNIST FORCES FIRED 17 122MM ROCKETS AGAINST THE CU CHI BASE CAMP, HQS OF THE 25TH ARVN DIV, RESULTING IN ONE RVNAF WOUNDED.

9. ICCS: INDODEL REPORTED THAT THERE WERE NO "OBSERVATIONS" CONDUCTED IN ICCS REGION V THIS PERIOD. ACCORDING TO ONE INDO-NESIAN REPRESENTATIVE, INDODEL WAS REQUIRED TO CANCEL ONE PLANNED "OBSERVATION" IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE BECAUSE OF A LACK OF GASOLINE.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01

DPW-01 DRC-01 /186 W
---------- 103492
R 111000Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8576
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM UIB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMIHMACTHAI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 5 SAIGON 11840

PART VII--MR-4.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA DECLINED TO THE LOWEST LEVEL OF THE YEAR. KIEN VAN DISTRICT IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE WAS THE ONLY AREA TO EXPERIENCE CONCENTRATED VC/NVA PRESSURE, AND GVN DEFENDERS THERE PERFORMED WELL. OTHER AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN VC MR-3, WERE UNUSUALLY QUIET. MILITARY SOURCES EXPECT ACTIVITY WILL PICK UP AGAIN AS THE VC/NVA MOVE INTO THEIR ROUTINE MID-MONTH HIGHPOINT. FOR THE WEEK, CORPS REPORTS 188 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (237 LAST WEEK) CONSISTING OF 29 GROUND ATTACKS (24), 99 ABF'S (141), 43 HARASSMENTS (60), 7 SABOTAGE (5) ANDNSQP TERRORISLDINCIDENTS (6). GC)9(3 49003 59 96 KIA (120), 490 WIA (651), 15 MIA (9), AND ONE CREW-SERVED (3) AND 58 INDIVIDUAL (164) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 342 VC/NVA KIA (482), 18 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (91), AND 9 CREW-SERVED (16) AND 119 INDIVIDUAL (177) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: KIEN PHONG PROVINCE REMAINED ACTIVE AS THE D-1 AND D-3 BATTALIONS/Z-15 REGIMENT AND THE 502A AND B LF BATTALIONS CONTINUED TO SHELL, HARASS AND ATTACK OB'S IN KIEN VAN (D). KINH XANY MOI OB IN MY THO (V), MY THANH OB IN MY HOI (V), AND XEO QUIT OB IN LONG HIEP (V) CAME UNDER REPEATED ASSAULT. TRA BONG OB IN NHI MY (V), CAO LANH (D), WHICH WAS OVERRUN AND RETAKEN LAST WEEK, WAS AGAIN SUBJECT TO ABF'S AND ONE GROUND ATTACK. DESPITE HIGH NUMBERS OF GVN TROOPS WOUNDED, ALL OF THE OUTPOSTS HELD. KIEN PHONG S-2 BELIEVES VC/NVA TROOPS ARE NO LONGER TARGETING KIEN VAN DISTRICT HQ, AND ARE INSTEAD ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND BASE AREA 307 ON THE KIEN

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VAN/MY AN DISTRICT BORDER. IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE, FOUR MINING INCIDENTS OCCURRED ON ROUTE 30 IN GIAO DUC (D). IN THE MOST SERIOUS, A LAMBRETTA BUS HIT A MINE WHICH KILLED 7 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED THREE, WITH THREE CHILDREN MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD. A SNIPING ON HIGHWAY 4 IN CAI LAY (D) IN THE EVENING WOUNDED THREE CIVILIANS. ACTIVITY IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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LIGHT. ONE GVN SOLDIER WAS KILLED AND 5 SOLDIERS DED 5 CIVILIANS WERE KIDNAPPED BY A GROUP OF VC, SOME OF WHOM WERE WEARING GVN UNIFORMS, IN A BAR IN TAN HOA (V), KIEN BINH (D). GO CONG PROVINCE REPORTED 5 BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS AND A CONTACT IN SW HOA DONG (D) WHICH RESULTED IN ONE RF WOUNDED. AN GIANG AND CHAU DOC PROVINCES REMAINED QUIET.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, THREE ROUNDS OF 120MM HIT BEN TRE, THE PROVINCE CAPITAL, KILLING ONE CIVILIAN AND WOUNDING TWO OTHERS AND AN RF SOLDIER. THREE TERRORISTS WEARING ARVN UNIFORMS THREW A GRENADE INTO A COFFEE SHOP IN GIONG TROM DISTRICT TOWN, KILLING THE DISTRICT RDC CHIEF AND ONE OTHER CIVILIAN, AND WOUNDING TEN CIVILIANS AND A SUB-SUB-SECTOR CHIEF. IN MAKING THEIR ESCAPE, THE TERRORISTS SHOT AND KILLED A NATIONAL POLICEMAN AND A PF SOLDIER. ANOTHER RDC CHIEF (FROM VINH HOA VILLAGE) WAS KILLED BY SNIPER FIRE ON PROVINCIAL ROUTE 30 IN THE EARLY EVENING IN TAN BINH (V) MO KAY (D). ACTIVITY IN VINH BINH PROVINCE INCREASED SLIGHTLY. A GROUND ATTACK AGAINST LONG HUU (V), LONG TOAN (D) WOUNDED SIX GVN SOLDIERS AND OFFICIALS. ELSEWHERE SCATTERED SHELLINGS IN CAU KE AND LONG TOAN DISTRICTS RESULTED IN VERY LIGHT CASUALTIES. ACTIVITY IN VINH LONG PROVINCE DECLINED FURTHER, BUT TWO OB'S IN HAU LOC (V), TAM BINH (D) WERE ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE WITH LIGHT CASUALTIES. SHORTLY AFTER THE ABANDONMENT, AIR SORTIES WERE CALLED IN AND THE OB'S WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REOCCUPIED. SA DEC PROVINCE WAS QUIET, BUT AN RF BATTALION IN LONG HUNG (V), LAP VO (D) RECEIVED 6 ROUNDS OF 60MM MORTAR WHICH CAUSED NO CASULATIES. THIS IS THE FIRST VC/NVA USE OF MORTAR IN NORTHERN SA DEC IN ALMOST TWO YEARS. ACTIVITY IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE WAS LIMITED TO SMALL UNIT CONTACTS AND LIGHT ABF'S AGAINST OB'S WHICH RESULTED IN MINOR CASUALTIES. HOWEVER THERE WERE SEVERAL KIDNAPPINGS IN PHONG DIEN AND PHUNG HIEP DISTRICTS: VICTIMS CONSISTED OF 5 PSDF, 6 TEENAGERS AND ONE ELDERLY CIVILIAN. ONE OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED JUST OFF HIGHWAY 4 IN PHUNG HIEP (V), PHUNG HIEP (D). KIEN GIANG PROVINCE WAS QUIET,WITH MOST ACTIVITY IN KIEN BINH AND KIEN THANH DISTRICTS. THANH HUNG, HOA QUAN AND THOI AN VILLAGE HQ'S IN KIEN BINH (D) RECEIVED SPORADIC ABF'S BUT SUFFERED NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. THREE INFILTRATION GROUPS WERE AMBUSHED WHILE CROSSING ROUTE 80; 5 INFILTRATORS WERE KILLED.
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(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE CONTINUED TO DECLINE. A GRENADE EXPLOSION AMONG A GROUP OF ETHNIC CAMBODIANS RETURNING HOME FROM A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY IN VINH CHAU (V), VINH CHAU (D) KILLED 5 AND WOUNDED 13. ACTIVITY IN BA XUYEN (P) CONSISTED MOSTLY OF ABF'S AND HARASSMENTS AGAINST OB'S. TWO SMALL-UNIT CONTACTS WERE REPORTED: ONE WAS 4 KM N OF HOA TU DISTRICT TOWN RESULTING IN 2 PF KIA, AND 2 PF AND 7 PSDF MIA; THE OTHER WAS 18 KM NW OF LONG PHU VILLAGE OFFICE RESULTING IN 6 RF WIA. IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, AN OB 4 KM SOUTH OF QUAN LONG DISTRICT TOWN WAS OVERRUN; AN RF/PF OPERATION HAS SINCE RE-ENTERED THE AREA. ARVN TROOPS IN TAN LOC VILLAGE (SCENE OF THE OB OVERRUN REPORTED LAST WEEK) KILLED 7 VC WHILE SUSTAINING TWO KIA AND ONE WIA. THE REST OF THE PROVINCE WAS QUIET. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, AN OB TWO KM SE OF KIEN LONG DISTRICT TOWN CAME UNDER GROUND ATTACK AND LOST COMMUNICATIONS. TWO RF BATTALIONS OPERATING IN XA PHIEN (V) CAME UNDER ATTACK, SUFFERING 2 KIA AND 14 WIA. THERE WERE SEVERAL ABF'S AND GROUND CONTACTS SCATTERED THROUGH THE REST OF THE PROVINCE, BUT WITH MINOR RESULTS.

2. GVN AFFAIRS: LTC VUONG VAN TRO, FORMERLY SA DEC PROVINCE CHIEF, WAS INSTALLED AS KIEN GIANG PROVINCE CHIEF IN A CEREMONY AT RACH GIA SEPTEMBER 7. COL. LE KHANH, FORMER KIEN GIANG PROVINCE CHIEF, WILL GEC KMITTIIRO IN SA DEC THIS WEEK.
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